

Mr. Tarte's Fate In the Balance.

Two Quebec Mayors Named as Successors to Colleagues of Sir Wilfrid's.

Judgeship Found Useful in Extensive Political Shuffle Now in Prospect.

Special to the Colonist.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—Rumor is busy with impending changes in the Laurier cabinet.

It is asserted that the present mayor of Quebec is to take Mr. Tarte's place as minister of public works, and Mayor Prefontaine of Montreal will become minister of inland revenue in succession to Sir Henri Joly who in turn will take the position of speaker of the senate in place of Mr. Pelletier, who will get a judgeship.

Mr. Bernier is said to be slated for a cabinet position without portfolio. Mr. Tarte, it is said, will go back to Paris for medical treatment.

FREE STATISTES TROUPELLED.

See No Prospect Except Disastrous Defeat and are Hacking With Transvaal Allies.

Capetown, Dec. 26.—Recent arrivals from Jacobsdal report that notwithstanding the Boers' successes the Free States do not expect ultimate victory. They are confident of the overbearing conduct of Gen. Cronje's men, who are alleged to be better fed and posted in the safest positions.

The Transvaalians do not conceal their suspicions of the possible defection of the Free States, and threaten to shoot them at the least sign of wavering. The Free States are declared to regard subjection to the Transvaal as more to be feared than subjection to Great Britain.

ENGAGED AT LADYSMITH.

Mere Mention of Recent Affairs in Which the British Casualties Were Twenty-Four.

London, Dec. 26.—The war office received a despatch from Pietermaritzburg dated Sunday, 24th, announcing that in an engagement at Ladysmith on December 22, Lieut.-Col. Paton, Major A. C. King, Captains Wathen and Oakes, and Lieut. Hulst were wounded, and that nine non-commissioned officers and men were killed and ten wounded.

This engagement had not been recorded before this.

DRIVING THE FILIPINOS.

Attack on Little American Garrison Repulsed with Severe Loss to Insurgents.

Manila, Dec. 27.—Gen. Santa Ana, with a force of insurgents estimated at 300, attacked a garrison at Subig yesterday. A body of marines were sent from Olongapo to reinforce the garrison and the Filipinos were driven back, several being killed. There were no casualties on the American side.

A company of the 48th volunteer infantry, together with a contingent of marines has been sent from Manila to reinforce the garrison until further orders.

SIR CHARLES IN BOUNDARY.

Conservative Leader Addresses an Enthusiastic Meeting at Greenwood.

Greenwood, Dec. 26.—Sir Charles Tupper and party arrived in the city this afternoon, and were entertained by the executive committee of the Liberal-Conservative Association.

In the evening Mr. Charles Wilson, of Vancouver, and Sir Charles addressed a crowded audience in Miller's hall. An address was read by the chairman, Mr. Goswell, on behalf of the Liberal-Conservative Association.

Sir Charles in reply spoke over two hours with great vigor and effect, reviewing the whole political situation. He was repeatedly cheered.

At the close there were calls for Sir Herbert, who gave a fifteen-minute speech with great effect. Sir Charles leaves tomorrow for Rossland, where he speaks Thursday night. He is delighted with his reception and with the Boundary country.

VENEZUELAN FINANCE.

Caracas, Venezuela, Dec. 26.—The refusal of the Bank of Venezuela to allow the official bank inspectors, Senor Fabricio Conde, to inspect the books of the institution, caused a panic in financial circles yesterday. To-day the bank agreed to receive him and the panic ceased.

WHEAT STORES.

New York, Dec. 26.—The statement of the visible supply of wheat in store and export on Saturday, December 23, as compiled by the New York Produce Exchange, is 58,878,000 bushels, an increase of 1,725,000.

Croup, Coughs and Colds are all quickly cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. It lessens the cough almost instantly, and cures readily the most obstinate cold. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Exter.

DOMINION NEWS NOTES.

A Bank Deals Generously With Soldiers' Families on Christmas Day—No Snow in Manitoba.

Special to the Colonist.

MANITOBA WEATHER.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Winnipeggers had cold weather for the Christmas holiday, with bright sunny skies and no snow.

CHRISTMAS CASUALTIES.

Simcoe, Dec. 26.—Joe Peddell, a farmer living a short distance west of Simcoe, became intoxicated while in town and drove into the river with a horse and rig. Peddell and the horse were both drowned.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—George Davis, a druggist of Napaka, died yesterday from the effects of an overdose of morphine while delirious from the effects of fever.

QUEBEC'S GREETING.

Quebec, Dec. 26.—Mayor Parent yesterday sent the following cable to Col. Otter, commanding the Canadian contingent: "The Mayor and citizens of Quebec offer their hearty Christmas greetings and compliments of the season."

A BANK'S SUBSCRIPTION.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—The Bank of Montreal directors today voted 2,000 guineas to the fund for British soldiers' families, and the directors further personally subscribed 1,500 guineas.

THE POLICE READY.

Winnipeg, Dec. 26.—Mounted Policemen are volunteering in large numbers for service with the Canadian contingent. The Winnipeg troops will concentrate here on Thursday.

KILLED IN A RUNAWAY.

Prominent Citizen of Montreal Loses His Life on Cote des Neiges Hill.

Montreal, Dec. 26.—(Special)—James Burnett, a prominent citizen, lost his life yesterday, as the result of a runaway. Mr. Burnett went out with his brother Hugh and a friend, David Ewen, for a sleigh drive. After a pleasant outing, Burnett, who was driving alone, proceeded down Cote des Neiges hill, a very steep incline running down from the mountain park. On the way down the horse shied and the sleigh overturned, the occupants being thrown to the ground. Burnett, who was driving alone, fell on to the reins and was dragged down the hill. The horse, badly frightened, continued at a terrific pace, and Burnett was thrown against a telegraph pole on the side. He was picked up unconscious and found suffering from concussion of the brain. He lingered until evening, when he passed away. Deceased was the son of James Burnett, formerly president of the Montreal Stock Exchange, and was himself a stock broker. He was married only a short while ago, and Mrs. Burnett is prosaically. Ewen, who was badly hurt, will recover. Hugh Burnett escaped unhurt.

WOMAN FACING SCAFFOLD.

Murderer of Her Mistress at Brandon Shows Bravery on the Eve of Execution.

Brandon, Dec. 26.—(Special)—With but a few hours to live and confined only to a few yards from where the carpenters are building the scaffold upon which she is to die, Hilda Blake retains self-control, composure and good humor which makes her the most remarkable criminal ever seen in Western Canada. The fact that she shows neither weakness nor alarm at the approach of her execution is possibly due to her desire to die rather than spend the remainder of her natural life in prison, but it is not the less remarkable. Saturday afternoon she sent for Crown Prosecutor Matheson, but expressed no desire to make a statement or arrangements of any kind. She was in good humor, almost gay, and laughed and joked with her friends. When conversation turned to her approaching fate she said: "Am I not brave? I seem to be possessed of two natures, one good and one very bad, and they seem to have control at different times. I am either good or very bad." "You cannot think for altogether bad?" she asked, pointedly, later on.

Radcliffe, the hangman, is here, and the sentence will be carried out in the morning. Dr. McDiarmid will be present, together with a few officials. From present appearances, Hilda Blake will walk as firmly to the scaffold as any man ever did.

Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, and others, who are interested in the case, are all here. One of the doctors, Dr. Little, gave her a dose of morphine.

At the close there were calls for Sir Herbert, who gave a fifteen-minute speech with great effect. Sir Charles leaves tomorrow for Rossland, where he speaks Thursday night. He is delighted with his reception and with the Boundary country.

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V. & S. By-Law In Extremis.

Received What May Prove Death-Blow at Weekly Meeting of City Council.

No Deviation from the Demand that Company Must Raise Half a Million.

The Victoria & Sidney Railway Extension by-law received a severe blow at last night's meeting of the city council—that is, if the statements of Messrs. Belyea and Renouf, who appeared on behalf of the project, were intended to be taken as final. Those gentlemen insisted that the scheme might be considered dead and buried if the by-law were made to provide that the company should be compelled to have a paid-up capital of \$500,000 in hand before receiving aid from Victoria. No alteration in this respect was made notwithstanding this statement.

There were present His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen Kinsman, MacGregor, Humphreys, Brydon, Beckwith, Stewart, Hayward, Cameron and Williams.

Communications were received from Messrs. Semlin, Cotton, McPhillips and Heineken. Mr. P. P. King, acknowledging receipt of the council's recommendation that the Indian reserve dispute be taken up and disposed of at the earliest possible opportunity.

Miss Constance Thomas wrote from Kingston-on-Thames, Eng., apprising the corporation on what terms a series of lectures on home nursing would be delivered in British Columbia cities in the near future. Referred to finance committee for report.

The city solicitor reported that the petition from the Johnson estate against the proposed street improvements on Broad street did not contain the necessary number of signatures and was therefore ineffective.

P. J. Claxton complained of the poor electric light on Fernwood road. Referred to electric light committee.

The Judgment Payment by-law was reconsidered and finally passed.

Before going into committee on the V. & S. Extension by-law, Ald. Beckwith moved that a fifteen minutes' conference be held with Messrs. A. L. Belyea and C. E. Renouf, who were present on behalf of the project. This being agreed to, those gentlemen addressed the council.

Mr. Belyea said there was considerable comment as to who was behind the project. He could tell them—it was the citizens of Victoria who in May last had appointed a committee to formulate the project. He would not provide better service than the city had now, and the by-law was the result. No one but the citizens was behind it. The only object those who are interested in themselves in the matter have in view is to give Victoria good railway connection with the mainland, and the city should not be afraid to do so.

Somebody was going to make money out of the project. If the by-law passes a company will then be formed to push the scheme to completion. The council in the present by-law insisted that the company should have in its coffers the sum of \$500,000 in cash. He thought this most unfair, as any company with this amount of money at its command would not consult the council at all. As the scheme stood at present, it might be modified here and there, but it would not be modified in its essential features. He felt that it was utterly impossible to go ahead unless the scheme was modified. If the council was determined to wrap the project up in the restrictions which were proposed, nothing further could be done. None of the other municipalities from which it was hoped to obtain assistance would have anything to do with the scheme. It was absurd to propose that a scheme costing \$1,500,000 should be compelled to have \$1,000,000 in the treasury before work was commenced. He would ask that the council reconsider that clause. It was no use to hedge the by-law round with conditions which would prevent capitalists from taking hold of it. Mr. Belyea referred to the fact that the city had now a railway connection with the mainland, and the city should not be afraid to do so.

Mr. Renouf said that at a previous meeting the Mayor had explained why the sum of \$500,000 should not be insisted upon pointing out at that time that \$500,000 was a large sum of money. He said that he had secured the success of the project. He said that he had secured the success of the project. He said that he had secured the success of the project.

Mr. Renouf's opinion it was useless to go on with a charter which would be useless when obtained as five different municipalities were interested in the matter. There was no reason why the city should not be able to get right-of-way into the city, or if it did, at what cost. He thought it would be well to ascertain how if the city was prepared to grant the necessary privileges. He did not know why any objection should be made as all progressive cities were granting right-of-way privileges. The speaker quoted figures to show the amount of trade which might be expected from the railway service supplied by local government officials.

Ald. Hayward did not think the municipalities could be whipped into line. He could see no objection to reducing the amount to the figure named—\$200,000.

Mr. Belyea—If the citizens of Victoria don't want to give \$500,000, let them say so, but if they do, let them give it on such conditions as will prevent other municipalities coming in.

Ald. Williams considered that if the amount which the city is asked to subsidize it would be in the form of a subsidy it would be one way of overcoming the difficulty. Victoria wants a railway from the south, east, or any other direction. We should be united in our efforts to secure one.

Mr. Belyea informed him that it was impossible to change the by-law, which the city should grant aid in the project—the petition settled that matter.

Ald. Humphrey wanted to know how

the company would raise the balance of money necessary to build the road. Mr. Belyea said that no company would be experienced in raising the money required and cited as example the building of the large transcontinental railways, which had been started on a small amount of capital.

A lengthy discussion then ensued and before going into committee of the whole to reconsider the by-law, Mayor Redfern observed that he had not heard a single argument advanced to make him change his opinion that it was necessary for the city to help out the project. The company should be required to possess—\$500,000—should be insisted upon. The following clause was then considered:

provided, however, that the corporation shall not be liable to the interest on its subscription for the said shares unless and until the company shall have either by the sale of its shares or by municipal, provincial or federal cash bounties, cash grants or guarantees in aid of the project, the sum of \$500,000 in hand before receiving aid from Victoria.

After some discussion the words "cash" in the fifth line were struck out, and the words "or otherwise" were inserted before the word "secured" in the seventh line inserted.

Ald. Hayward was of the opinion that the by-law was utterly useless if those words were inserted as it permitted the company to put up bonds with a financial agent and it was necessary that the city should have practically no security.

Ald. Brydon thought that as long as the city had control of the project those words would not matter much.

Ald. Beckwith thought that the amount which the company should be required to have in hand be reduced from \$500,000 to \$200,000, the motion eliciting a very spirited discussion, many of the arguments advanced by speakers repeated above being made.

Mr. Renouf said that the project was a very important one, and that the city should not be afraid to do so. He said that he had secured the success of the project. He said that he had secured the success of the project.

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Bankrupt Stock OF BOOTS and SHOES Selling Cheap JEWELL BLOCK, COR. YATES AND DOUGLAS STS.

LOCAL NEWS.

Died at Christmas.—Numerous friends and acquaintances throughout the province will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Thistle, for some years engaged in the saloon business in this city, and since then one of the representative farmers of Victoria district, his home being on Cadboro Bay road, near the agricultural hall. Mr. Thistle's death was quite unexpected. About two weeks ago he removed to North Saanich, being at that time in comparatively good health, although an invalid for several years. He was a native of Ireland, aged 75 years, and leaves a widow and four children. The funeral will be conducted by the I. O. O. F. to-morrow afternoon, the interment being at Ross Bay cemetery.

Practical Benevolence.—The Salvation Army shelter and industrial wood yard has now been in operation again for three or four weeks, and Adjutant G. A. Dodd, the officer in charge, hopes that citizens will not forget the practical efforts the Army is putting forth in this direction to relieve deserving cases of need, and patronize the yard. As has been explained in the Colonist before, the Army officials do not encourage mendicants. When an able-bodied person applies to them for assistance, he is at once given food or shelter, but he is required to work for what he gets. A fair value is set upon his work, and the wood that he cuts is for sale at current prices. Latterly there have been numerous applicants to the Army offices for work of any kind, and these officers would be glad to have the names and addresses of any citizens who are willing to give employment to men to whom the fates have been unkind, and who only ask the opportunity to earn an honest living. There are at present an average of twelve applicants per night for lodging in the shelter.

THE VANCOUVER RIFLES.
Battalion Order to Give Effect to Transformation From Artillery.

The News-Advertiser of Vancouver publishes a list of orders dated December 23, issued by Lieut.-Col. Worsnop, commanding the Sixth Battalion, Rifles, giving the following details for the transformation recently ordered:

1. In accordance with G. O. the battalions of the 6th division are divided into six companies, each having the following establishment: Captain 1; lieutenant 1; second lieutenant 1; color sergeant 1; sergeants 2; corporals 3; lance corporals 3; bugler 1; privates 40. The regimental staff will consist of: adjutant 1; quartermaster 1; surgeon-major 1; surgeon-lieutenant (super-numerary) 1; battalion sergeant-major 1; quartermaster-sergeant 1; band leader 1; paymaster-sergeant 1; clerical orderly 1; corporal medical orderly 1; band sergeant (super-numerary) 1.

2. In accordance with R. & O. 1898, companies will be designated by letters A and B in Westminster; C, D, E and F in Vancouver.

3. Captain J. Reynolds Tite is, at his own request, relieved of the duties of adjutant, and returns to duty as a company officer.

4. Major C. C. Bennett will act as adjutant until further orders.

5. Major Lacey R. Johnson will take the duties of second in command, and Major J. C. Whyte those of junior major, until further orders.

6. Company officers are posted as follows: A Company, Capt. Henderson; B Company, Capt. Johnson; C Company, Capt. Doxell; D Company, Capt. Boulton; E Company, Capt. Tite; F Company, Capt. Stewart; G Company, Capt. Stewart; H Company, Capt. Stewart; I Company, Capt. Stewart; J Company, Capt. Stewart; K Company, Capt. Stewart; L Company, Capt. Stewart; M Company, Capt. Stewart; N Company, Capt. Stewart; O Company, Capt. Stewart; P Company, Capt. Stewart; Q Company, Capt. Stewart; R Company, Capt. Stewart; S Company, Capt. Stewart; T Company, Capt. Stewart; U Company, Capt. Stewart; V Company, Capt. Stewart; W Company, Capt. Stewart; X Company, Capt. Stewart; Y Company, Capt. Stewart; Z Company, Capt. Stewart.

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THE WAR.

The absence of exciting news from the seat of war does not prove that very important work is not in progress there. A very rigorous censorship is being exercised, and in addition to this the pressure of official and commercial business greatly restricts the capacity of the two cables to deal with despatches. It is safe to assume, however, that no very important event has taken place or we would have heard of it. Nothing has been heard from Gen. French's column for several days. The last news represented him as moving slowly towards Colonsburg from Arundel. Except that Gen. Buller moved his camp a short distance and that the Naval guns had fired a few shells into the Boer position on the Tugela, the operations of the Natal force are being kept secret. It seems to be taken for granted that heavy reinforcements are being sent forward to Buller, who will now find himself confronted with Joubert, the Boer leader being able to take the field again. Gen. Gatacre reports that he has retaken Dordrecht. This is interesting, especially as the Boer force retired without making any opposition. Dordrecht is a railway terminus north of the Stormberg range. It is reached by a branch of the road from East London. The occupation of this point renders it possible for Gatacre to move a portion of his command around the Boer position at Stormberg Junction if he thinks it advisable to do so. Gen. Methu reports all quiet at Modder River, and he is said to have his big Naval guns so posted as to command the whole Boer position. The news that his wounded are rejoicing him shows that his lines of communication are fully open.

It is reported again that the Free Staters are growing disaffected. There may be something in this, and perhaps their retirement from Dordrecht is attributable to a feeling that they have been fighting long enough, but it is as well to take stories of this kind with many grains of allowance. The Free Staters must realize that they have needlessly engaged in a quarrel that can have only one outcome.

THE END OF THE CENTURY.

The Pope proposes that, so far as papal chronology goes, the present year shall end the nineteenth century. We are rather sorry that the world generally will not accept the decision of His Holiness. Of course theoretically the century will not end until the close of next year, but as the Christian era is a purely arbitrary arrangement, which is not even supposed to have begun at the birth of Christ, each century might very conveniently be made to end with the 99. It is true that there never was a year 0; but then we know that in point of fact there never was a year 1; that is there never was a year when people wrote the date A.D. 1. A correspondent asks where the new year will begin. This is also an arbitrary arrangement, but for convenience it is understood that the time changes at 180 degrees from Greenwich, Chatham Island in the South Pacific ocean is the first land to see the sun rise on a new day. At 8 p.m. Victoria time it is midnight on Chatham Island, and consequently the new year will begin there immediately after 8 p.m. of our time.

MINES AND MINERS.

At the investigation made by Mr. Clute at Rossland some very interesting and important facts were brought out. Mr. Bernard McDonald, general manager of the B. A. C.'s properties, was one of the chief witnesses. He went into details of cases where, to his own knowledge, the passage of the eight-hour law had driven out Eastern Canadian capitalists, and said that the fear of further legislation along the same lines had absolutely prevented large sums of money from being invested here. He gave some statistics showing the investments of his company in this province, which have an important bearing upon the subject of mines and miners. We give them in detail:

Le Roi	\$3,950,362 00
W. Le Roi	921,675 17
E. Le Roi	559,185 12
Columbia-Kootenay	471,135 21
Caledonia	31,291 63
Tootsie and Whoop-Up	17,944 15
Hoskins	7,530 14
Argentine	6,722 02
Wild Horse	4,185 24
Improvements and options	42,832 52
Supplies in stock	39,682 48
Administration	106,186 25

Total

Mr. Edmund H. Kirby, manager of the War Eagle Consolidated and Centre Star companies, said their investment amounts to \$3,500,000, chiefly of Canadian money. We are without data as to the amount of money invested in other mining properties, but as these two concerns represent nearly \$10,000,000 it is probably well within the mark to say that the investments in mines in the Trail district reach at least \$12,000,000.

Mr. Kirby said that the Le Roi contributes about 45 per cent. of the Rossland pay-roll, his company about 40 per cent., and other companies 15 per cent. In addition the War Eagle and Centre Star furnish almost the entire supply for the Trail smelter, and hence support the town of Trail. The Le Roi in like man-

ner keeps up Northport, but as that town is in the United States we need not take it into consideration. Here, then, we have two mining concerns, which maintain the city of Rossland and the town of Trail at their present prosperity, and it is surely not unreasonable to say that in framing legislation for the control of mining, something else ought to have been considered than the demands of a few miners, who may have been dissatisfied with the conditions under which they worked a year ago. Surely before a law, that was calculated to have a radical effect upon the profits of mining, was placed on the statute book, some effort ought to have been made to ascertain what its effect would be upon that extremely important industry.

We do not propose to discuss in this article the claim made that the eight-hour law ought not in fact to interfere with the mining industry. All the competent witnesses examined by Mr. Clute have, so far as we have seen, agreed that it does. The point which we want to make is that legislation, calculated to embarrass and discourage the investment of capital, or which may have the tendency to compel the owners to close down the mines, will affect more than the capitalists who own the properties or the men who work for them. It strikes at the very foundation of the prosperity of whole communities. What British Columbia needs at this time is some one with sufficient courage and patriotism to do what is right, regardless of consequences. The time has passed for demagoguery and personal ambition to be allowed to dictate the policy of the province. We need a premier, a cabinet and a legislature that will grapple with the question without any regard to political consequences, and give the province a law that will meet the reasonable wishes of both miners and mine-owners. We are confident that this can be done.

Mr. McDonald in his testimony deprecated any attempt to prefer skilled miners from coming into this province, for this would greatly retard mining development. He said that we must look chiefly to the United States for skilled miners. Mr. Kirby took the same position. He said it is impossible to develop rapidly the mining industry of this province without the aid of miners from the United States. Canada can only supply a very limited number. None of the companies are importing labor. We quote the concluding part of Mr. Kirby's evidence, as reported by the Rossland Miner:

"The majority of mines do not pay, but are sinking money in the effort to find pay ore. Any increase of their burden discourages or stops the enterprise. A large pay mine, like any other producing business is a complicated affair, delicately adjusted to its conditions. A slight change is enough to destroy its profits and create a loss. Any persistent intention to 'kill the goose that lays the golden egg.' A difference of two-tenths in the labor received for wages amounts to a profit in itself. Few mines can stand such a burden if it is imposed upon them. If unable to get relief by the contract system, many mines must close. I need hardly add that capital is proverbially timid and nothing will scare it off so promptly as class legislation or labor trouble."

Referring to the contract system, the witness said he never knew of contracts being objected to. Contracts did not tend to lower wages. If the average pay for contract work did not greatly exceed the general wage paid, the miners would refuse to take contracts at all and the system would be ended. The great incentive to take contracts in place of wages was the increased amount earned by the hard workers. Otherwise the miner could get his wages and take it easy when the shift boss was not around. Pay under the contract system always averages over the wage level of the district. This is a good arrangement for all concerned; under the wage system the slowest man in the gang regulates the pace, but on contract work all the men work hard to earn good pay, and there is no loafing about. If the men do not earn more than the average wages, the foreman would not be able to let any contracts.

The alleged Fenian organizations in the United States talk of invading Canada. If they start it is to be hoped the United States government will not stop them; for the people of Canada would like the contract of wiping them out of existence.

The Boundary Creek Times thinks the defeat of the Semlin government is likely to come at the end of the session, because it says members wish to get the legislation in which they are interested passed before a break-up. We do not see why this consideration should influence anyone. Defeat the government and pass the necessary legislation afterwards. A government defeat does not imply a new election.

It is proposed to erect a memorial in the parish church of Totnes, Devon, and the town of Saltash, in Cornwall, in memory of that gallant soldier, General Sir William Penn Symonds, who fell at the battle of Talana Hill, while leading his troops forward in a great object lesson intended to show the Boers the mettle of British infantry. Baron Kinsale is at the head of the movement, of which P. A. Rawling, mayor of Saltash, is honorary treasurer. Contributions are invited to be sent to the honorary treasurer at Saltash, Cornwall, England. There ought to be a generous response.

The Grand Forks Daily Gazette thinks that Mr. J. M. Martin, M. P., has as good reason to withdraw his support from the Semlin government as Mr. J. M. Kelle, M. P., had to withdraw his from Mr. Turner. The boundaries of the Grand Forks mining district have been altered without consultation with Mr. Martin, who represents the constituency in which the district is situated. The Gazette ought to recollect that at present the government of British Columbia consists of one man, Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton, and that a suggestion to

His Supremacy from a humble representative would be an Unwarrantable Impertinence.

Residents on the Washington side of the Straits of Juan de Fuca are daily expecting the promulgation of an order by the United States government setting aside the forest reservation which has hitherto locked up 500,000 or very excellent land between the mountains and the strait. This is expected to be followed by a great inrush of people, for the reason that very little land fit for settlement remains in the hands of the government of that country.

The Capetown correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph doubts if ever a country was so devoted of its male population as is the Transvaal. "It is a land of women and girls, boys under 15, and a few old men. The rest are at the front in Natal or across the western border." He adds that judges have been doing duty at Pretoria as policemen. Johannesburg, Pretoria and Bloemfontein are alleged on good authority to be deserted cities. For a historical parallel we must go back to the cities of Greece during the Trojan war.

A force of thirty Natal Carbineers rode out and arrested three ranchers suspected of disloyalty, and brought them into Frere. The distance going and coming was one hundred miles, and they covered it in twenty-three hours, besides having a brush with the Boers on the way, killing six of them. A party of seventy-five mounted men left Mochudi and covered the same distance in the same time, their object being to seize and destroy a stock of Boer ammunition, which they did. The enemy's loss was twenty-two. The only casualty on our side was a wounded horse.

CLEOPATRA'S EMERALDS.

London Equips an Expedition to Search for Fabled Mines Lost for Centuries.

Somewhere in Egypt are the richest emerald mines in the world. When the fascinating Cleopatra was queen these mines were a part of her possessions and she kept a number of slaves constantly engaged in working them. Day by day, urged on by the lash of the task master the slaves sought for these rare gems and each day the output of the mines was sent to the queen. This is a matter of history. For many years the fact that the beautiful Cleopatra had so many of these gems that she was in the habit of bestowing them upon those to whom she desired to show her favor.

When Cleopatra died the location of the mines was forgotten. For years mines of gold, emeralds and other precious stones had been in operation, and yet they disappeared as mysteriously as they had been run. Whether or not the secret of their location had been a state secret that was to be kept from the common knowledge of all hazards is a matter that will probably never be known, but the fact remains that before the Egyptians had another opportunity to operate them they had forgotten where they were. For nearly two thousand years the immense wealth in these mines has remained unclaimed. More than five hundred years ago an effort was made to locate these properties but without success, and at last the mines of Cleopatra are regarded as a fable that had no foundation in reality.

A few days ago, however, a small but perfectly equipped expedition left London for the purpose of opening up the mines of Cleopatra. The man who is at the head of this remarkable expedition is Edwin Street, a diamond merchant in Bond Street, London, and he is so confident that he has discovered the location of the buried mines that he has entered into an agreement with the Egyptian government by which he agrees not only to bear all the expenses of his explorations but also to share the profits of his trip. In view of this fact he is promised protection by the government.

Mr. Streeter, who claims to have made this remarkable discovery, is a man of no little ability. Not only is he a prominent figure in the commercial life of London, but he is an explorer and archaeologist of repute and an author of considerable renown. One of his books, "Precious Stones and Gems," is already in its sixth edition and is regarded as one of the best works in this field of knowledge. Under these circumstances it is not strange that commercial London should have been willing to accept his remarkable story without question.

According to the statement made by Mr. Streeter, the diamond merchant has known of the location of these mines for more than twenty years. Long ago he had read of the famous Zebel Zabala mines and the rich finds that they yielded to the early Egyptians. He had also studied every page of a story in which there was any mention of the gold and jewels that had been dug from the earth to add to the wealth of Cleopatra. At last he became persuaded that such mines had actually existed and that they had been buried in other words they might be kept from the hands of the Romans. With this idea in view he went to Egypt bent upon finding the mines that had once made that country one of the richest nations in the world.

When he returned he said nothing about his trip, but from time to time when he had paid mysterious visits to Egypt, and it has been known that he was in diplomatic communication with the government. Now that his secret is out he admits that he was successful in finding the mines on the occasion of his first trip, that they were within a stone's throw of one of the largest of the ancient barracks and that he has kept this secret all these years simply because he had been unable to make advantageous arrangements with the government. For nearly a quarter of a century he has known where these mines, so rich in precious stones, were located, but he has been unsuccessful in securing the grant that would enable him to operate them.

Once during this long period of waiting it almost seemed as if the treasure were within his grasp. He had laid the matter before Nubar Pasha and he was so favorably impressed by the scheme that he promised Mr. Streeter a company of soldiers to guard the property, but he died, and at the new government was not friendly to the idea another failure was scored.

About a year ago Mr. Streeter made another effort to secure his grant of land from the authorities and finally, much to his surprise, he was successful. His concession gives him the right to carry on his mining operations within an area of about 110 square miles, on condition that the government be taken into partnership in the scheme. At the end of the year, however, he shall withdraw from the company entirely. Hard as these conditions were, Mr. Streeter was very glad to accept them, as he expects to be able to mine a vast quantity of the gems during the years in which his concession is in force.

The land where these unique mining operations will be pursued lies in the center of a vast mineral field formed by a depression in a long range of mountains which runs all along the Red Sea coast. In this terri-

tory there are at least two mines that will be worked. One is about 140 miles from Adfu on the Nile and the other is about 120 miles overland from the same point. To reach either of these mines it will be necessary to travel by camel and the stones mined will have to be brought to the Nile by the same means. Up to the present time this portion of the Arabian desert is practically unexplored, and Mr. Streeter expects to make some important discoveries during the next five days.—Exchange.

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

To the Editor of the Colonist:
Sir: In the published reports of the closing exercises at the schools there is more than one reference to the unsatisfactory condition of the High school building, which no amount of patching will make either convenient or sanitary. The people are beginning to realize that there is an urgent need for a modern High school building. Victoria has made many strides in the direction of up-to-date institutions during the past few years, and a good High school building would be an important step in the same direction. Let the matter be submitted to the ratepayers.
PROGRESS.
Victoria, Dec. 26, 1899.

BEECHAM BIDS FOR KIPLING MS.

Among those who have made the highest bids for the original manuscript of Rudyard Kipling's poem, "The Absent-Minded Beggar," which is being sold for the benefit of the wives and children of the British reservists who have been ordered to South Africa, is Mr. Beecham, of St. Helens, England, who offered \$525 for it.

Mr. Beecham's name is familiar to every newspaper reader in America, as he is proprietor of the famous pills which bear his name. In addition to being a lover of things artistic, he is also a most public spirited man. The great manufacturing centre of St. Helens, of which his enormous factory is one of the largest industries, he recognized his good services to the town by electing him recently to the mayoralty, backed by the unanimous petition to the municipal council of St. Helens. Without doubt that executive ability which has assisted him so materially in building up his vast enterprise, will be of great service to his fellow townsmen.

"The blood is the life." Science has never gone beyond that simple statement of scripture. But it has illuminated that statement and it is a man's power over broadening the increasing breadth of knowledge. When the blood is "bad" or impure it is not alone the body which suffers through disease. The brain is also clouded, the mind and judgment are affected, and many an evil deed or impure thought may be directly traced to the impurity of the blood. No one can be well balanced in mind and body whose blood is impure. No one can have a wholesome and pure life unless the blood is pure. Pure blood can be made pure by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. When the blood is pure the body and brain are alike healthy and life becomes a daily happiness.

Free—Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, 1008 pages, 700 illustrations, is sent free on receipt of stamps to defray expense of mailing only. Sent 21 one-cent stamps for name and address of the doctor, to Dr. R. V. Pierce, 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y.

VICTORIA THEATRE.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

WHITING & WILLIS present the breezy seaside droll

At Gay Coney Island

The most popular comedy ever presented. The Company as good as the best.

Prices: 25c, 50c, 75c, and \$1.00. Seats on sale Tuesday morning at the Victoria Book & Stationery Store.

For Xmas Presents

JAPANESE CURIOS.
JAPANESE BAMBOO FURNITURE.
JAPANESE SILKS.
JAPANESE TOYS, etc.

Latest importation from Japan, marked at greatly reduced prices. Choose early for our novelty goods.

JAPANESE BAZAAR,

Y. Osawa's.
31 Government Street,
(Next to Weller Bros.)

We have no end of Suitable Presents.....

For Him!

For Her!

For the Little Ones!

Fountain Pens, Dressing Cases, Shaving Sets, Writing Cases, Prang's Art Medallions, Collar and Cuff Boxes, New Stock Prayer and Hymn Books, Glove and Handkerchief Boxes, Best Dolls in Town, Games of all kinds, Magic Lanterns, Books by the thousands.

Xmas Stockings filled with Toys from 5cts to 30cts

SOLE AGENTS RAPHAEL TUCK'S BOOKLETS AND CALENDARS

VICTORIA BOOK & STATIONERY CO.

(LATE JAMIESON'S)

The Noted Caledonian Bakery and Confectionery Store, 112 Yates St.

THERE WILL BE A GRAND NEW YEAR PRIZE DRAWING AT THE ABOVE STORE ON Monday, Jan. 1, 1900

AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING For the following prizes: 1st prize (value \$75), 1 grand, 10-story almond loaf, first class English Fruit Cake, 2nd prize, Large, square, artistically ornamented rich Fruit Cake, 3rd—Large size rich Xmas plum pudding, 4th prize—Medium size first class English Plum Pudding.

Tickets 25c each. Don't fail to call and see the grand display of Xmas and New Year confectionery which will be on exhibition during the holidays at the noted Caledonian Bakery Establishment, 112 Yates Street.

J. C. DARLING, Proprietor.

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J. C. DARLING, Proprietor.

Stoddart's Jewellery Store.

will shortly be removed to premises adjoining Nicholles & Renouf's Hardware Store.

Eight Day Striking Clocks \$3.00

Every Article Reduced to Clearing Sale Prices...

Xmas Presents

FOR MEN AND BOYS.

KODAKS, GOLF CLUBS AND BALLS, FOOTBALLS, BOXING GLOVES, FIRE-ARMS, AMMUNITION, ETC. A LARGE SELECTION.

JOHN BARNESLEY & CO., 115 Government Street.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TANNING CO.

LIMITED.

Rock Bay
Victoria, B.C.

Buckskin Dressed for Glove, Lace and Lash Leather.

Highest cash price paid for Hides, Pelts and Skins.

DOG FANCIERS.

FOR SALE

The well known pair of pure bred JAPANESE & SPANIELS, Toko and Lady.

Also—pair Japanese puppies (male and female), bred from same.

Aside from their popularity as ladies' pets on account of their gentleness, they are of great value for breeding purposes.

Apply MRS. COLTART, 1 Strathcona Block, Vancouver, B. C.

Some...

Are going out of the Boot and Shoe business, but we are right in it, as our sales testify every day. Every pair to be cleared out before the year 1900.

JIM MAYNARD,

DOUGLAS STREET, OPPOSITE CITY HALL.

Xmas Week at Weiler Bros

A CAR LOAD OF

Dining Tables

— IN —

OAK, ASH AND ELM

FROM \$6.50 TO \$75.00 EACH.

The above Tables have just arrived, and we take this means of letting our customers who have been waiting know that they can now be seen.

Xmas Goods of Every Description.

WAR MAP.

South Africa

The Most Complete Up-to-Date Map in the Market.

We have just received a consignment of Maps of South Africa—26 x 19 inches—giving the greatest detail of South African points. It is a most valuable aid in following the events as they take place during the present war. In fact it is absolutely necessary to understand the accounts of engagements, movement of troops, etc.

On the reverse side of this map is a large Map of the World on Mercator's projection. This enables the reader to follow the movements of the Navy from all parts of the World.

Maps of the Philippine Islands

AND A DETAILED

Map of the Island of Luzon

where the war is on between the United States and Filipinos are also shown, thus giving all necessary information of the location of the war in the Philippines.

PRICE 25cts.

By Mail, at Newsdealers, or at The Colonist office

Bank of British Columbia

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1862.)

CAPITAL (with power to increase) £100,000 \$2,920,000

RESERVE £100,000 486,000

HEAD OFFICE, 60 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON, ENGLAND.

BRANCHES:

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA—Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Nelson, Sandon, Rossland.

IN THE UNITED STATES—San Francisco and Portland.

Agents and Correspondents:—IN CANADA—Canadian Bank of Commerce, Merchants' Bank of Canada, The Molsons Bank, Imperial Bank of Canada, Bank of Nova Scotia and Union Bank of Canada. IN UNITED STATES—Canadian Bank of Commerce (Agency), New York; Bank of Nova Scotia, Chicago. IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND—Bank of Australasia, IN HONOLULU—Bishop & Co.

Yukon and Atlin Gold Fields

Drafts, Letters of Credit, etc. issued direct on Dawson City Atlin City and Saagway.

Savings Bank Department

Deposits received from \$1 and upwards, and interest allowed thereon. Gold dust purchased, and every description of banking business transacted.

Victoria, B.C., November, 1898. GEO. GILLESPIE, Manager.

VICTORIA TIDES.

[By Mr. Napier Donison.]

The zero of the accompanying scale corresponds to 14 feet of water in the channel off Shoal Point, and 18.6 feet above the sill of the Esquimalt dry dock.

Time.	Height above zero.	Time.	Height above zero.
0:30 a.m.	6.3 feet.	1:30 a.m.	7.4 feet.
3:00 a.m.	5.8 feet.	4:00 a.m.	7.0 feet.
9:00 a.m.	9.1 feet.	10:00 a.m.	9.2 feet.
6:30 p.m.	2.9 feet.	7:00 p.m.	2.0 feet.

Not HOW CHEAP, but HOW GOOD.

— The best Life Insurance Policy on the market is issued by the Mutual Life of New York. Lowest Premiums consistent with safety and Highest Guarantees. Ask for particulars ...Heisterman & Co. District Managers.

THE LOCAL NEWS.

Use Blue Ribbon Flavoring Extracts.

Carpenters' Tools at Cheapside.

If you have beauty, I will take it.

If you have none I will make it.

Savannah, Photo.

Majestic Ranges at Cheapside.

Best Lawn Mowers at Cheapside.

Smoke "Nugget Cigar," Meiss & Co.

Bass' XXXX on draught at the Ocidental.

Drink "Hondl," purest and best of Guyton teas.

Air Tight Stoves, perfect beauties, at Clarke & Pearson's.

Finely furnished rooms at the International.

Fine lot of Xmas Cigars. Call and see them. Meiss & Co.

International Restaurant always open. Best of everything. Reasonable charges.

Gen. White is all right, so are Kelowna Cigars. Wholesale at B. C. Jobbing Co., 31 Store street.

Some beautiful effects in stylish French Curtains. You should not miss these. Weiler Bros.

Just arrived at Weiler Bros., a carload of dining tables (special values) from \$6.50 to \$75.00 each.

We are preparing for your wants for New Year's. Everything fresh and A 1 quality. Clay's. Tel. 101.

We will give double stamps on all boys' suits. Short pants sold this week. McCandless Bros., 37 Johnson street.

Don't you often hear it said that advertising is a fine art? You require the truth neatly and plainly put. When you hear that "HONDL" Ceylon Tea is the best and purest on the market you have it.

Holiday presents, comprising English Dram Flasks, Silver-Mounted Pipes, Shaving, Sporting and Pocket Cutlery, Skates, Boxing Gloves, Footballs, Punching Bags, Golf Goods, Fishing Tackle, Shooting Jackets, Cartridge Vests, Sporting Supplies, etc., at Henry Short & Sons', 72 Douglas street.

The Williams B. C. Directory will be published about the 1st of April or sooner, completely revised and corrected up to date. A complete index of the Mineral Act of 1898 with Revised Statutes as amended 1898 and 1899; also index to Placer Mining Act, 1891, and amendments of 1899-1900, if any, will be a new feature.

In the Field.—A municipal election without Mr. Maurice Humber, among the aldermanic candidates would be an unheard of thing in Victoria. In order that precedent shall not be departed from, the genial ex-alderman announces himself as a candidate in the North Ward at the approaching elections.

Come early and get your choice while there is a large assortment to pick from. Perfumes, Perfume Atomizers, Ebony Brushes, Mirrors, etc., Travelling Cases, Dressing Cases and a host of other good things. F. W. Fawcett & Co., 49 Government street.

Christmas Weddings.—Among the several young couples who celebrated Christmas by uniting their fortunes for better or worse were Mr. W. Devereux and Mrs. Mary Hall, and Mr. Harry Stone and Miss Lizzie Deakin, the bridegroom at the latter wedding being a prosperous young rancher of Manitoba. The Stone-Deakin marriage was solemnized by Right Rev. Bishop Cridge, at the home of the bride, Mr. Thomas Deakin acting as best man and Miss Grace Marion as bridesmaid. The nuptials of Mr. Devereux and Mrs. Hall were celebrated yesterday morning at St. Andrew's (R. C.) cathedral, Rev. Father

Nicolay officiating. Miss Gillis, a sister of the bride, supported her at the altar, while the groom was attended by Mr. M. F. Hennelley.

The Cathedral Treat.—The children of Christ Church cathedral are to enjoy their Christmas tree and treat on Thursday evening of this week, the holiday exercises commencing with a special service at the cathedral at 6:45.

Fifty Years Together.—Out in Lake district on Saturday evening last, the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander celebrated Christmas and a golden wedding coincidentally. There was a large and harmonious gathering of friends, together with the family, inclusive of twenty-one grandchildren.

For the Horses' Benefit.—A very interesting programme is being arranged for an entertainment to be given at the Metehosin public hall on Friday evening next, in aid of the fund to provide for the erection of sheds for the horses and carriages of those attending churches or meetings of any nature at Metehosin.

A Conflict of Evidence.—The trial of William Ferguson and Louis Morris for the theft of a sealing boat belonging to It. K. Tubbs, was under investigation in camera before the city police magistrate the greater part of yesterday, a remand until this morning being ordered eventually. The defence is that the boat was found adrift; while the prosecutor claims that it had been violently wrecked from its moorings.

Have Their Suspicions.—A false alarm from the corner of Humboldt and Rupert streets gave the fire department a useless run on Christmas night, the manner in which the box had been left strongly indicating that the same fakir had been at work who called the brigade to Cornmorant and Store streets on Saturday night last. The firemen as well as the police have their suspicions as to his identity, and if he is apprehended it will fare ill for him.

Goldstream School Closes.—The Goldstream public school closed for the holidays on Friday last, when the rooms were very tastefully decorated for the closing exercises, consisting of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., and many parents and friends attended. A Christmas tree well laden with toys and more useful gifts for the children was provided by the teacher; and short addresses were given by the trustees and other interested visitors, all testifying to the very efficient manner in which Miss A. S. Johnston has performed her responsible duties since taking charge of the school.

Too Cute for Freedom.—If Lee Wong Sing could only circumvent the Chinese exclusion laws of the United States, he would make a career open to him in any of the larger American cities as a first-class confidence man. Yesterday he was in the city police court, charged with a theft of twenty cents, and was committed for thirty days. He had undertaken a fish store and made a purchase utilizing his opportunity while the dealer was putting up his modest purchase, to tap the till. The probability is that he would not have been discovered had he not had the audacity to tender a twenty-cent piece in payment that he had just stolen, and which the dealer recognized.

Extensive Addition.—Extensive improvements will be made at an early date in the Vernon Block on the corner of Douglas and View streets. Mr. Forbes, the owner, has the building, which is encouraged by the success which has attended the operating of the hotel under the management of Mrs. Walt, has now before him plans for extensive additions to his property. These include another story to the structure and five elevators to the ground floor apartments. The bar which was run in connection with the building when the Vernon was first opened but which for the past few years has not been running will almost immediately, it is understood, be refitted and put in operation in order to meet the demands of the increased patronage accorded the house under the able management of Mrs. Walt, who, while looking after the Dallas, will still continue to supervise affairs at the Vernon.

Christmas at Telegraph Bay.—The customary solitude of Telegraph Bay was broken on Saturday evening last, when "Sheltering Rock Villa," the residence of Mr. E. E. Green, superintendent of the Giant Powder Works, was the scene of a very pleasant Christmas party. Mr. and Mrs. Green, entertaining the employees and their families. A very pretty Christmas tree was the prominent feature of the evening, its unusual characteristics being that instead of the candy bags generally used for the holding of sweets, dynamite cartridges bearing the firm stamp were employed, having every appearance of the genuine article, but in reality no more dangerous than candy always is. The tree was well laden with pretty and useful gifts for all present, and Mr. S. Copeland assumed the role of Santa Claus. After the denuding of the tree was completed, he made a very neat little speech, in which he presented Mr. and Mrs. Green with a handsome silver water service, a gift from the company's employees at the works. Mr. Green was so thoroughly and genuinely surprised that it was some minutes ere he found words in which to adequately voice his thanks and appreciation. Refreshments were served during the evening, and several hours passed pleasantly in games, music and conversation.

To-night's Theatrical Attraction.—"At Gay Coney Island" is the indefinite title of the latest farce extravaganza, which comes to the Victoria theatre to-night, and which is thus heralded by the advance man: "All the newest fun, latest songs, freshest jokes, and the dandiest dances of the day are introduced in great profusion. No less than eleven specialties are appropriately introduced. Among them is the singing and dancing of little Mattie Lockette. Her rendition of the stuttering song in the second act is one of the cleverest bits of work in the whole production, and has made Miss Lockette famous. Then there is Miss Marie Stori, who made so phenomenal a success at the morning concerts at the famous Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York last spring, where she was substituted as the prima donna for the distinguished Emma Juch. Miss Stori not only possesses a dramatic soprano voice that has won her instant recognition in the concert and oratorio field, but is also very favorably known as a violinist in the East, where she has appeared as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and at the musical convention held at Cincinnati, Ohio, and Syracuse, N. Y. Miss Stori's work affords a genuine treat for all lovers of the sterling in music."

SEE OUR WINDOWS Before Buying Xmas Presents.

PERFUMES, TRAVELLING CASES, TOILET CASES, ETC.

HALL & CO., Dispensing Chemists, 414-416, Cor. Yates and Douglas Streets.

Nicolay officiating. Miss Gillis, a sister of the bride, supported her at the altar, while the groom was attended by Mr. M. F. Hennelley.

The Cathedral Treat.—The children of Christ Church cathedral are to enjoy their Christmas tree and treat on Thursday evening of this week, the holiday exercises commencing with a special service at the cathedral at 6:45.

Fifty Years Together.—Out in Lake district on Saturday evening last, the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander celebrated Christmas and a golden wedding coincidentally. There was a large and harmonious gathering of friends, together with the family, inclusive of twenty-one grandchildren.

For the Horses' Benefit.—A very interesting programme is being arranged for an entertainment to be given at the Metehosin public hall on Friday evening next, in aid of the fund to provide for the erection of sheds for the horses and carriages of those attending churches or meetings of any nature at Metehosin.

A Conflict of Evidence.—The trial of William Ferguson and Louis Morris for the theft of a sealing boat belonging to It. K. Tubbs, was under investigation in camera before the city police magistrate the greater part of yesterday, a remand until this morning being ordered eventually. The defence is that the boat was found adrift; while the prosecutor claims that it had been violently wrecked from its moorings.

Have Their Suspicions.—A false alarm from the corner of Humboldt and Rupert streets gave the fire department a useless run on Christmas night, the manner in which the box had been left strongly indicating that the same fakir had been at work who called the brigade to Cornmorant and Store streets on Saturday night last. The firemen as well as the police have their suspicions as to his identity, and if he is apprehended it will fare ill for him.

Goldstream School Closes.—The Goldstream public school closed for the holidays on Friday last, when the rooms were very tastefully decorated for the closing exercises, consisting of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., and many parents and friends attended. A Christmas tree well laden with toys and more useful gifts for the children was provided by the teacher; and short addresses were given by the trustees and other interested visitors, all testifying to the very efficient manner in which Miss A. S. Johnston has performed her responsible duties since taking charge of the school.

Too Cute for Freedom.—If Lee Wong Sing could only circumvent the Chinese exclusion laws of the United States, he would make a career open to him in any of the larger American cities as a first-class confidence man. Yesterday he was in the city police court, charged with a theft of twenty cents, and was committed for thirty days. He had undertaken a fish store and made a purchase utilizing his opportunity while the dealer was putting up his modest purchase, to tap the till. The probability is that he would not have been discovered had he not had the audacity to tender a twenty-cent piece in payment that he had just stolen, and which the dealer recognized.

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Electric Light Fittings.

Graceful,

Elegant,

Novel.

Call and Inspect Our New Stock.

G. C. Hinton & Co.

62 Government Street.

One of our freshly prepared

Siedlitz Powders taken in

the morning will do you good

Cyrus H. Bowes,

Chemist

100 Government St. Near Yates.

Everything in Drugs.

Telephone 425.

CHILDREN TO PASTOR.

Purse and an Address Presented to Rev. W. H. Barracough by Children.

The Sunday school children of the Centennial Methodist church on Sunday evening presented Rev. W. H. Barracough, their pastor, with a purse and the following address:

Rev. W. H. Barracough:

Christmas time brings with it a source of pleasure and happiness to us all, and more especially so to the children, for at this time we expect and receive gifts from our parents and friends which makes us doubly happy. While we are thus so happy we must not forget that those who are older than ourselves should be made happy in return for what they have done for us and among us. Among these is our good friend Mr. Barracough, who is held high in the esteem of us all, not only as a man but as our dear friend, Mr. Shakespeare, we have gathered together a little token to present to you on this occasion which we ask you to accept on behalf of the Sunday school children. I now take the pleasure in presenting you with the little purse and its contents.

Signed on behalf of the scholars of the Centennial Sunday school.

BEATRICE WILLEY.

NETTIE JEEVES.

SEALS DO NOT SUFFER.

Professor Clark Learnedly Contents That Burning Holes in Their Backs Does Not Cause Any Pain.

Professor George O. Clark, secretary to President Jordan of Stanford University, has taken it upon himself to make reply to the charges of barbarous cruelty preferred against the American seal traders by Collector A. R. Milne, C. M. G., of this city.

"It is amusing," said Professor Clark in a published interview, "to notice that when the shoe begins to pinch they immediately set up their cry. Collector Milne is exactly right in his statements. The branding is done to destroy the skin and harass the Canadian sealers. There is no suffering whatever. The seal has a covering of at least two inches of blubber which does not contain one single nerve and very few blood vessels. When the seals were branded they did not even pay attention to their wound. They are not a nervous animal, and are very hard to frighten."

"The one thing which may give cause to this argument is that the seal does not remain, but is continuously washed away by sea water. This leaves apparently a bad wound, but in reality prevents any disease setting in. When the seals come on land the new skin cracks from the sun, and this of course is irritating, but they don't show any suffering. It is nothing like the branding of calves or colts. We made severe tests the first year, but not one pup died of it. If the British collector wishes to resist a matter of southern origin, he should call to the count we made of sixteen thousand pups starved to death on the islands, their mothers having been killed by Canadian sealers."

Annual Meeting.—The adjourned annual meeting of the British Columbia Agricultural and Industrial Association will be held this evening at the city hall, for the election of officers.

Another Christmas Bride.—At the residence of Mr. E. A. Wolff last evening Right Rev. Bishop Cridge performed the interesting ceremony that made Miss Fannie Leech, daughter of the late Peter Leech of this city, another of the Christ- mas brides. The husband of her choice being Mr. William Felker, of Cariboo. The bride was given away by Mr. Wolff and attended by Miss May Wolff, Mr. George Snider supporting the groom. The bridal gown was of rich Duchesse satin, appropriately trimmed, and the bride wore as ornaments a magnificent diamond necklace, pin and pendant—the gifts of the groom. Mr. and Mrs. Felker will spend their honeymoon in California.

Miss Raymond's Trophies.—Miss Alice Raymond, who is playing an engagement at the Savoy a week, is the possessor of several of the handsomest medals that have ever been presented to a concert soloist. One of her handsomest medals was presented by the board of directors of the St. Louis exposition, where she was soloist with John Philip Sousa. It is a work of art, consisting of an elaborately worked scroll, with a pin, and with a pendant fittingly inscribed, and a laurel wreath encircling a miniature cornet, so perfect in construction that the keys can be manipulated. The one presented to Miss Raymond by the management of the Toronto exposition is another beautiful design, presenting the Union Jack, the Maple Leaf and other emblems of Canada and the Old Country. Miss Raymond was soloist at the Pan-American dinner given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie at the Arlington in Washington, D. C., and her reception was an ovation. The last notice of her solo brought forth much applause and showers of flowers. President Harrison, being the guest of honor, presented her with a diamond star, the gift of the South American delegates. These, with other medals, will be on exhibition to-day at Spencer's Arcade, Government street.

Good Family Flour

Snow Flake

Three Star

Ogilvie's Hungarian Flour

COME AND SEE. GRANDY, NUTS AND RAISINS.

HARDRESS CLARK,

98 Government Street,

Old Post Office

300 ACRES NORTH SAANICH

This magnificent property, charmingly situated, consists of 300 acres of first-class farming land, 150 acres of which are under cultivation, the balance being bush land of the best quality, easily cleared. This property is for sale at \$37.50 per acre, and is probably the greatest bargain ever offered in the way of first-class farming property in Saanich.

Pemberton & Son, 45 Fort Street.

A Big Storm In Alaska.

Traffic on the White Pass and Yukon Railway Blocked For Four Days.

Dawson Telegraph Line Down—Rich Diggings Found on the Indian River.

After a very rough trip from Skagway the steamer Tees, Capt. Gosse, arrived yesterday noon with 15 passengers, a few of whom were from Dawson. Those who came to Victoria were J. N. Dick and wife, Capt. A. F. Woodhouse and wife, Dr. C. B. Scharschmidt and wife, C. M. Larsen, B. F. Sherman, J. Patterson, W. Dougherty, P. Hensen, W. Sandalls; and from Skeena Capt. F. P. Armstrong, J. Hilton and M. Hilton. The Tees was a little late in arriving, owing to the fact that she waited three days at Skagway for the train with mails from Dawson, 23 bags coming down. No train was run for four days on the White Pass & Yukon railway, traffic being blocked by a very severe snow and wind storm which lasted from the 18th to the 22nd inst. To make matters worse the engines which were pushing the rotary snow plough were buried in a snow slide, the removal of the snow from the track requiring that on the mountain sides. The engines and plough were damaged. The engines were buried beneath about twelve feet of snow. Fortunately no one was hurt, although the passengers were greatly inconvenienced, food having to be taken up to them by teams. Some walked back to Skagway. One of the latter, P. Oregon, was found in a snowdrift with his face and hands badly frozen. A Skagway paper referring to the accident said:

The train on which the passengers came from Dawson followed the rotary and was pushed by two engines. When the plough was a mile south of the switchback it cut out the lower part of the accumulated face of snow on the mountain side. This loosened a mass above, and it came down with a rush, burying the plough and the locomotives out of sight. The passenger train behind was not touched by the slide. There was fifteen feet of snow in the cut.

Those who walked from the blocked track reported that the snow was two feet deep on an average all along the line. After the rotary had been freed from the bank which buried her, she struck a boulder hidden in the snow, and of its twenty steel knives only seven were left. It was feared that the storm would people at the rate of 50 cents for a cup of coffee and sandwich on the train.

The operator at Glacier reports that one immense avalanche swept down the mountain covering 850 feet of the track and taking out five telegraph poles and prostrating the wires. Trees twelve inches were observed in the slide, and it is not known what else may be under the surface, and what is the condition of the track. The slide covers the track five to twenty feet deep.

The Dawson wires have been down a week. That this wire has been paying is shown by the statement by one well in touch with the business of the line, that the receipts for the first two months of this year amounted to \$15,000. It was in operation amounting to \$15,000. It was in operation amounting to \$15,000. It was in operation amounting to \$15,000.

"Swiftwater Bill" Gates led another stampede to a branch of the Indian river, which is said to be very rich.

Annual Treat.—The children of the Sunday school of Calvary Baptist church will hold their annual Christmas tree and entertainment this evening.

The Christmas Dance.—The members of the Y. M. C. and Y. W. C. I. council hands to-night and will together entertain their friends at a Christmas dancing party to be given in Institute hall.

Imperial Hotel.—The Imperial hotel, Theatre block, well deserves the name it bears, being furnished and appointed in the most recherché style. It is replete with every comfort, and is what is rarely met with, "a home away from home." Its cuisine is excellent, having a staff of experienced white cooks, one can obtain a real old-fashioned English dinner, well cooked and served. The dining room is spacious and richly appointed, the guests' comfort being studied in every detail. Private and family dinners, from the cosy theatre supper to the most sumptuous banquet, can be obtained at the most reasonable rates. Those who wish can pass from the theatre into the hotel or restaurant. A ladies' grill room is being fitted up and will be ready in a few days.

Xmas week at Weiler Bros.' is a very busy season. This year they expect a larger business than usual. Call early and view their interesting stocks.

They're Sweet.

These fine mixed pickles we're offering you today. The vegetables are local grown, delivered to us on the premises, carefully sorted over and thoroughly cleaned, then pickled and sealed in air-tight jars. They're so good you can't help liking them. 25c and 40c bottle—pints and quarts.

D. R. POTTINGER'S

Ideal Provision Store, 72 Yates Street, between Government and Broad Streets.

\$1.50

Suit

For Men's Pure Wool Underwear—striped or plain—double-breasted shirts with ribbed skirts and wristlets, pearl buttons, ribbed ankles on drawers, finished waist bands; taken in straps in back. Not a few odds and ends or old stock, but a complete range in all sizes. Quite enough to satisfy every one that buys reasonably early.

Cameron,

Clothes, Furnisher and Hatter,

55 Johnson Street.

GLASSES ADJUSTED. EYES TESTED FREE.

FORT ST.

Free

With every purchase

1 Sheet Latest Popular Music

Our large stock Xmas Musical Goods have arrived. For quality and price we offer you the best selected stock in the city. Give us a call.

Fletcher Bros.

MUSIC DEALERS. 93 GOVT. ST.

Silver Novelties.

LADIES' TOILET SETS.

GENT'S SHAVING SETS.

VICTORIA SOUVENIRS.

And a large variety of useful and fancy novelties in silver of the latest designs—the correct thing for Xmas presents. The prices are reasonable.

A. A. CLAYTON,

23 Fort St., three doors from Gov't. St.

Real Hair Switches.

Natural curly fringes, Pompadour rolls and curls, etc. Combed made up in any style; also Hair Dressing, Shampooing, Scalp Treatment, Face Massage, Manicuring, etc., at

MRS. G. KOSGRE'S

55 DOUGLAS STREET, NEAR FORT.

CHRISTMAS GOODS

Just Arrived at

Oriental Bazaar, 60 Douglas Street and at

152 Gov't St. near Victoria Hotel Yokohama Bazaar,

Best Place to get Japanese Fancy Goods

Special Reductions on Prices for this Month.

VICTORIA GIRL'S SCHOOL

STANLEY AVENUE.

Principals: Miss Dawson and Miss Green

Kindergarten, Primary and Advanced Classes. Term opens January 2nd.

The Hutcheson Co., Ltd.

INTERESTING TO LADIES.

RATHER than have you disappointed in not getting any of them, we have decided to continue for this week, the special goods we sold last week for Christmas.

Choice Little New Year Gifts

AT HALF PRICE.

Purses, Fancy Mirrors, Dressing Cases, Needle Books, Shaving Sets, Cigarette Trays and Cases, Letter Stands, Photo Frames, Atomizers, Breakfast Bells, etc., will be sold this week at half their marked prices.

Kid Gloves at \$1.50

That we are so frequently referring to are EXTRAORDINARY value, high class, up-to-date and make, by Messrs. Perrin, of Grenoble, one of the most famous glove manufacturers in the world; sizes 5½ to 7. Can't be duplicated short of \$2.00.

The Westside

Will close at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 9 p.m. in future until further notice.

XMAS SPECIALTIES

We have just received from the Manufacturers in England

Dressing Gowns, Smoking Jackets,

And a Choice Selection of Neckwear.

SEE OUR WINDOWS FOR EXCLUSIVE PATTERNS.

W. & J. WILSON

83 Government

VICTORIA, B. C.

NOT TOO LATE

TO ORDER YOUR

Xmas Turkey

And Cranberries for Sauce.

GORGONZOLA CHEESE,

FRENCH PLUM PUDDING,

CRYSTALLIZED FRUITS and

BON BONS, Varied Assortment.

ERSKINE, WALL & CO., THE LEADING GROCERS

WE WISH ALL

The Compliments of the Season!

WE THANK YOU

106 GOVERNMENT STREET] TROUNCE AVE.

THE WEATHER.

Metereological Office, Victoria, Dec. 26-8 p.m. SYNOPSIS: An area of high pressure covers this Province and the Canadian Northwest. Temperatures are decreasing and snow is falling in Cariboo and Alberta. A low area lies off the south California coast. The weather has been fair over the Pacific slope.

TEMPERATURES.	
Victoria	41
New Westminster	40
Kamloops	32
Barkerville	22
Calgary	20
Winnipeg	10
Portland, Ore.	44
San Francisco	58

FOREGASTS.

For 24 hours from 5 a. m. (Pacific time) Wednesday.

Victoria and Vicinity—Moderate winds, chiefly northeast; partly fair; colder, with frost at night.

Lower Mainland—Moderate winds, partly cloudy; lower temperature with frost at night.

VICTORIA DAILY RECORD.

Report for 24 hours ending 5 p. m. Observations taken daily at 5 a. m., noon and 5 p. m.

SUNDAY, Dec. 24.	
Deg.	Mean.
5 a. m.	40
Noon	40
5 p. m.	41

The velocity and direction of the wind were as follows:

5 a. m.	8 miles southeast.
Noon	6 miles southeast.
5 p. m.	20 miles east.

Average state of weather—Rain.

Barometer at noon—Observed.....30.252
Corrected.....30.259

MONDAY, Dec. 25.	
Deg.	Mean.
5 a. m.	50
Noon	50
5 p. m.	49

The velocity and direction of the wind were as follows:

5 a. m.	14 miles southwest.
Noon	6 miles east.
5 p. m.	Calm.

Average state of weather—Fair.

Rain—8 inches.

Sunshine—3 hours and 54 minutes.

Barometer at noon—Observed.....30.150
Corrected.....30.171

TUESDAY, Dec. 26.	
Deg.	Mean.
5 a. m.	42
Noon	43
5 p. m.	41

The velocity and direction of the wind were as follows:

5 a. m.	Calm.
Noon	Calm.
5 p. m.	6 miles northeast.

Average state of weather—Fair.

Sunshine—Two hours.

Barometer at noon—Observed.....30.226
Corrected.....30.275

Spring Rush To Cape Nome.

The Coast Transportation Companies Actively Preparing for the Spring Exodus.

Tees Arrives from Skagway—Last of the Sealing Fleet Away.

The various transportation companies operating from Victoria, the Sound ports and San Francisco are now convinced that there will be a tremendous rush to Cape Nome in the spring, the number of inquiries being received from Eastern points being simply phenomenal. It is unofficially learned that the steamers running direct to Nome from Victoria are assured of full freight and passenger cargo when sailing on the initial trips, about the 1st of May next, the rates being \$100 first-class, \$75 second-class, \$40 per ton for freight and \$75 for horses. Some of the representative vessels of the local companies interested are of the opinion that there will be a great scarcity of steamers to handle the traffic. The White Pass & Yukon railway company expect to get a considerable share of the Nome-bound traffic, believing that many will prefer to go to Dawson via Skagway, and from the latter port go down the Yukon to Nome. From San Francisco it is learned that many vessels are being chartered, and the stamped will probably be as great as in previous years. The first of the Klondike excitement. The J. S. Kimball Company will be early in the field. They are to run six steamers to Nome, Cape York, Port Clarence and Safety Harbor, via St. Michael. The vessels are the Aloha, Sequoia, Noyo, Alben, Bessie K. and the fine new steamer, John S. Kimball. The latter is now nearing completion, and will make her maiden voyage to the gold fields. She will carry 500 passengers and 1,500 tons of freight, and will sail every week or ten days. The Pacific Steam Whaling Company, the Alaska Commercial Company, the Pacific Coast Steamship Company and the Alaska Exploration Company are also getting ready for the rush, and during the spring there will be a dearth of vessels in the coasting trade in consequence. A company is being organized at Tacoma with a capital of \$200,000 to build a landing place at Cape Nome, at which point all vessels had great difficulty in discharging their cargoes last season. A huge freight dock is to be constructed large enough for two steamships to lie alongside. It will be anchored firmly one mile from shore. From the floating dock to the shore a line of caissons is to be sunk to bedrock, and upon these will be stretched a cable that will convey a system of surf buckets between it and the shore. To prevent the water undermining the caissons, piles are to be driven, and then to make them stable they will be filled with rock. It is reported that the charge for landing freight will be about \$5 per ton. The Tacoma Barge Company also proposes to furnish a landing and floating warehouse by anchoring off shore their immense barge Skookum, which has a capacity of 6,000 tons. She will be towed to Nome at the opening of navigation.

RELEASING TRANSPORTS.

United States Government Will Have Vessels of Their Own to Carry Troops to Manila.

The scarcity of tonnage complained of by some of the Sound exchanges will be remedied to some extent by the releasing in a few days of a large number of transports engaged by the United States government in the service to Philippine ports. All the transports under charter are being returned to their owners as fast as they arrive at San Francisco from Manila. Possibly a few have been fitted to carry horses will be retained in the service. The transport fleet will soon consist of vessels owned by the government and the horse carriers that are under charter. There are now twenty-seven transports on the way from Manila. It is expected that twenty will sail again as general commercial carriers after their arrival. All of the chartered vessels are receiving from \$500 to \$1,000 a day.

EGG ISLAND LIGHT.

It was Burning as Usual When the Tees Passed a Few Evenings Ago.

D. G. S. Quadra is expected back from an inspection of conditions at Egg Island Lighthouse, Queen Charlotte Sound, on Saturday evening next. The trip would under ordinary circumstances be made in somewhat quicker time, but Capt. Walbran has instructions from Capt. Gaudin, agent of the marine and fisheries department, which permit him to proceed slowly on the voyage, should he consider it advisable to do so. The steamer Tees which arrived from northern ports yesterday reported having operated at Egg Island light was operating as usual when she passed, so it is possible the trouble may have only been a slight mishap to the machinery operating the lights. During the present year the Quadra has made seven trips to Egg Island, which is not so completely isolated from civilization as might be inferred from the tenor of the first item referring to the matter.

THE SEALING FLEET.

Departure Dates of the Last Remaining Vessels in Port.

The sealing schooners Teresa and Annie E. Paint sailed on the Southern cruise yesterday. The Dora Seward, Favorite and Hatze are expected to get away at an early hour to-day. The Anoka and Beatrice will also sail some time this week, leaving the Victoria, Zillah May, Carlotta G. Cox and Sadie Turpel the only schooners in port which intend going out this season. The two former will clear for sea the early part of next week, but will also sail some time this week, leaving the Victoria, Zillah May, Carlotta G. Cox and Sadie Turpel may be delayed a few days in order to effect necessary repairs.

MARINE NOTES.

The steamer Willapa is due from Naas and Northern British Columbia ports. The steamer Aorangi is due to-day from Honolulu, Brisbane and Sydney. Steamer Queen City is due from Cape Scott and away ports of the West Coast. The City of London, of the N. P. line, from Oriental ports, is hourly expected. The tug Tacoma yesterday towed the ship Glendon, which arrived on Monday from Los Angeles, to Seattle. The steamer Cottage City will sail from the outer wharf to-day for Skagway, her departure having been somewhat delayed owing to slight repairs being required at Seattle. The steamer Victoria does not arrive at the outer dock until 7:30 this morning, and leaves again for the Sound at 8:30.

The American ship Glory of the Seas sailed from San Francisco a week ago for Comox to load another cargo of coal for R. Dunsmuir & Sons. The steamer Defiance, of Capt. Gates, arrived at Vancouver from Shoal Bay on Saturday evening. She brought down about 45 passengers and 17 tons of mail and four boxes, each containing 1,000 pounds of bullion from the Van Andia smelter. The Pacific Coast Steamship Company's steamer Queen sailed for San Francisco Sunday night with the following passengers from Victoria: Mrs. Allan, Ralph and James Allan, Miss L. Morris, Ernest H. Price, architect, and Miss A. L. Rev. A. Benson and Miss A. L. Broell. The bark Nanaimo, of the British Columbia lumber fleet, is now out 133 days from Chemainus for Nagasaki, Japan, and has been posted as missing at Lloyds. The overdue bark is manned by a number of well-known British Columbia mariners, including Capt. Newby, the pilot. She was built at Nanaimo and launched on September 3, 1882. Capt. Christensen and Chief Engineer McGuire of the tug Czar have come from Vancouver to take charge of the Lorne, the flagship of the tugboat fleet operating in the Straits. Their places will be taken on the Czar, on the route with Transfer No. 1, between Vancouver and Unbec, by Capt. L. P. McKee, a partner of the John and later of the Lorne. At an early hour on Monday morning the steamer Walla Walla arrived from San Francisco, several hours late. She had a heavy freight, including a large consignment of the Chemical Works. There were also large consignments for the Victoria-Phoenix Brewing Co., and sacks of peas for Brackman & Ker. Among the passengers, 33 of whom landed at this port, were D. M. Lewis, Q. C., and Theodore Lohbe, a partner of the Victoria-Phoenix Brewing Co. There was a very large shipment of condensed milk lying at the wharf at Vancouver to go out on the Empress next Monday. There are several consignments in it for different parts of China, making in all about 6,000 cases. The goods are from Illinois. There should be a chance for Canadian exporters in the milk business, if the people on the other side of the line are making it pay, as they have apparently been doing for the last year in shipments to China.

ON EVERY BOTTLE

Of Shiloh's Cough and Consumption Cure is this statement: "If we need of you to use two-thirds of the contents of this bottle faithfully, then if you can say you are not benefited return the price paid." Price 25 cts., 50 cts. and \$1.00. All druggists.

COL. BAKER'S RETURN.

Member for East Kootenay South Tells of Visit to His Constituency En Route.

From Vancouver News Advertiser.

Col. James Baker, M. P. for the south riding of East Kootenay, arrived in the city yesterday from the East. Since last in October, when he left for the Old Country, from where he arrived at Montreal a few weeks ago. Since then he has taken the journey westward in easy stages, and stayed for some days in Cranbrook and Fernie, in each of which he held a large number of public meetings. He is now on his way to the coast, and will be in the city tomorrow. During his stay in England his son was married, which circumstance delayed him some time longer than he would otherwise have been.

Col. Baker began to talk at once of the coal mines of East Kootenay, when asked yesterday afternoon regarding his trip. He said that they were developing very rapidly, and the output from the mines was now something like 800 tons per day. This will shortly be increased to 1,200 tons per day, he explained the Colonel, "and as it is, our mines cannot supply the demand throughout Kootenay and Montana. The coke is of first-class quality, and even if the output were a great deal larger there would be no trouble in finding a market for it. The towns of East Kootenay are progressing very well, and there is a general air of prosperity in the district. "I wish you would mention it is a matter about which something should be said—that there is complaint of the inadequate school accommodation. The school house and teaching staff at Fernie are both deficient. Several fathers of families have left the district because they could not get school accommodation for their children. "So far as mining goes development work and prospecting as well in South East Kootenay are in a very satisfactory condition. With the exception of the North Star and the St. Eugene groups, few of the properties have so far been developed sufficiently to be called mines, but so far as work has gone, in many cases it has met with very satisfactory results, and especially in relation to the important factor of dry ore. It is in contemplation to erect a smelter and probably a refinery at Cranbrook, which, being the centre of the great groups of mines in South East Kootenay, is the natural position for a smelter and refining industry. This would be a great benefit to the mine-owners, as it would naturally give them a greater price for their ores in consequence of their being in transportation. I found the merchants at Fernie and Cranbrook well satisfied with the progress of business, which has increased greatly during the last six months. "In the Old Country the great feature is, of course, the war excitement. The feeling is one of sadness combined with intense patriotism and the firm determination to see the matter through to the end. As far as volunteers are concerned the number who have offered their services to the country, if they could be accepted, are practically unlimited. There is, however, a calm and sober feeling with reference to the course that should be pursued, and that is a firm determination that British pluck shall carry it to a successful termination. "No, I have nothing to say regarding provincial political matters," said Col. Baker in answer to a question, as he went away to enjoy the natural pleasures of a good man on Christmas Eve.

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● GARFIELD'S PIG SYRUP—A fruit and vegetable preparation for regulating the bowels of children and adults. 25 cents 4½ ounce bottle. All druggists.

Good Cheer for Public's Wards

Christmas a Festival Day in Centres of Philanthropy in Victoria.

Sick, Aged and Orphans Alike Objects of Citizens Thoughtful Kindness.

Nice white slices of turkey such as little boys and girls are most fond of, and plenty of real plum pudding afterwards, constituted part of the Christmas fare of the 64 fatherless and motherless charges out at the Protestant Orphanage on Monday afternoon, something like 150 pounds of turkey having been sent in by good hearted friends, while there were fruits and candies and cranberries and all the other eatable et ceteras to make the feast complete. Mrs. McGregor, the matron, presided of course over the bright-faced crowd, while Aid, and Mrs. Hayward and Mrs. McCullough were among the few visitors who made it a point to cheer the little ones whose lives are none too full of sunshine, with their presence and their presents. The big celebration of Christmas at the orphanage does not, however, take place until Thursday—the Christmas dinner being merely the prelude to the joys of the Christmas tree. This will be provided on Thursday afternoon, a large stock of toys, bonbons, and other delights of childhood having been sent in by friends of the institution and the children have been already busy to select their pitch in anticipation of the annual festival. The patients at the Royal Jubilee and St. Joseph's hospitals were also served with specially good Christmas dinner on Monday, and did not seem to be in public ward or private room) getting a little more of the table delights than the nature of his ailments or the doctor would usually permit. The Christmas celebration at the Jubilee, indeed, commenced on Saturday, and did not end until last evening, there being a Christmas tree Saturday evening that was provocative of much amusement and innocent enjoyment. After the dinner Monday, the Arion Club under the direction of Mr. E. H. Russell gave their annual complimentary concert for the benefit of the patients, presenting an uncommonly well arranged programme of their best and most popular numbers, and having the valuable assistance in their endeavour to cheer the sick and suffering of Mrs. P. B. Pemberton. A number of the members of the hospital directorate attended the afternoon festivities and concert, among them President H. D. Helmecken and Messrs. Alexander Wilson, J. S. Yates, J. L. Crump, A. Lewis, and others. Sir Henry Crease in thanking the Arion Club in behalf of the patients, for their kindness in visiting the hospital as they have for several years past, expressed the hope that the Christmas festival would be a pleasant and profitable one to all concerned. He also spoke briefly but feelingly of the good work that is being done by the hospital, and expressed his confidence that its usefulness would continue unimpaired.

At St. Joseph's hospital and St. Anne's orphanage and convent the celebration of Christmas day was a quiet but enjoyable one, an excellent dinner for all being an important component part of the day's observance. Christmas was ushered in with a celebration of mid-night mass in the Convent chapel, and there were also appropriate exercises during the day. Special Christmas dinner was served by Manager Hobbs to all the inmates of the Old Men's Home on Christmas day, the good things to eat being washed down with good things to drink and the pioneers of the days that have gone before afterwards treated to a talk and conversation and good humor—so that the afternoon passed away very quickly and happily in stories of the other days, a few visitors dropping in to pass the compliments of the season with the inmates, and which continued peace and comfort during the remainder of their days. Nor were the veteran women of the city and province forgotten, Mrs. Jones, the matron, serving an exceptionally appetizing spread at the Old Women's Home.

The fifty-nine prisoners at the provincial goal commenced their Christmas celebration on Sunday, and continued the enjoyment of the holiday liberties and table treats until last night, with a protest that they will be duplicated on moderate scale at New Year's. The Monday dinner included an abundance of prime roast beef, plum pudding with oceans of sauce, "smokes" galore, and unaccustomed liberty of action that no amount of attempting to take advantage of. In the afternoon visits were received from Hon. J. S. Helmecken, the veteran friend of the prisoners, and from his popular son, Mr. H. D. Helmecken, M.P.P., accompanied by Mrs. Helmecken and the Misses Goodwin, the latter bringing with them cheer and happiness. A visit was also received during the afternoon from the Methodist friends, by whom music was given and the afternoon made to pass all too quickly. The few prisoners at the city station were also given Christmas dinner of a quality and abundance that they doubtless would not have secured had they been in the enjoyment of their liberties. At the Y.W.C.A. the promised Christmas dinner was postponed owing to some misarrangement of the arrangements, until a more suitable day this week; while at the Refuge and Rescue homes due recognition was given to the joyous character of the world's greatest holiday.

The Friendly Help and British Columbia Benevolent Society served many dinners and made many hearts happy in the homes of the deserving poor, among the families assisted being several who in times past have been accustomed to give rather than receive charity. Not Yet Served.—Two cases of assault on Christmas day were postponed owing to some misarrangement of the arrangements, until a more suitable day this week; while at the Refuge and Rescue homes due recognition was given to the joyous character of the world's greatest holiday. The Friendly Help and British Columbia Benevolent Society served many dinners and made many hearts happy in the homes of the deserving poor, among the families assisted being several who in times past have been accustomed to give rather than receive charity.

RECKONING TIME.

In Mohammedan Lands the Day Begins at Sunset.

The ordinary method of reckoning time in Mohammedan countries is from sunset to sunset. Twelve o'clock is at sunset, and this is the beginning of the day. Two periods of twelve hours then pass till the next sunset, whereupon everybody sets his watch, if he has one, backward or forward according to the season. Of course, accurate time is impossible under such a system. The telegraphs and railroads in Syria, for example, keep anything but exact time, though it might be procured from the observatory at Beyrout, which uses its mean time. In Teheran, Persia, a mid-day gun fired by the time shown on a dial, and this in spite of the fact that the correct local mean time might be procured at the telegraph office, which is regulated daily by a time signal from Greenwich, and is the time standard for all telegraphic business. But the merchants and the street car company keep gun time, and the railroad trains do not seem to require a time-table at all, as they seldom start until full or required to start by a government order. There are out-of-the-way parts of the world that keep very good time, because their clocks are regulated by telegraph from Greenwich, and then the Greenwich mean time is reduced to local time, according to longitude difference. Thus at Lagos and the Gold Coast, West Africa, the local time is checked daily by telegraph from Greenwich, and is transmitted to all the telegraph offices in the colonies. The time at Accra is only forty-five seconds slower than that of Greenwich, and is the time used throughout the Gold Coast. As a rule, the Chinese use an apparent sun time obtained from sun dials. The foreigners at the ports on the coast use an approximate local time calculated from the Shanghai time, supplied by the telegraph companies. The Chinese city of Tientsin, with a million inhabitants, the time is determined by the municipal chronometer, which is the town hall clock. It is supposed to be regulated every Saturday, when the community may set their watches, but it has been known to be in error at least three minutes. Last December was the time when all the towns in Colombia were expected thereafter to use the time of Bogota, the capital. With this responsibility upon them, it is hoped that the public use of that city will improve their time-keeping, for visitors at Bogota say it is nothing unusual for the public clocks to disagree by fully a quarter of an hour. In India the standard time for the whole of the peninsula is the mean time of the Greenwich observatory, and this is used in recording the time of sending telegrams to foreign countries. Local time is, however, used in most towns and villages, and it is announced by clocks, striking bells and bells and guns, the signals being given from churches, treasury buildings, forts and telegraph offices. The local clocks are set daily by the time telegraphed from Madras, and each telegraph office has a closely printed table filling about fifty pages, giving the difference between Madras and local time for the government telegraph offices in India.

Not a few countries constantly use two standards of time. This is not at all troublesome when we consider that before the adoption of the hour zones, the railroads across the continent employed about twenty standards of time in making up their time tables. Railroads and telegraphs throughout Spain use Madrid time, but for all other purposes the official time is determined by the meridian of each locality. Throughout Russia, St. Petersburg time is used for telegraphic purposes, and each place has its own local time besides. In Portugal the country towns keep their local time very roughly, but Lisbon and the railroad and telegraph services have the time of the Tapada royal observatory. There is considerable confusion in the Netherlands, and if one's watch does not agree with the town clocks as he travels through the land it doesn't follow that he has a poor time-keeper. In the railroad stations, telegraph and postoffice the exact time of the Greenwich observatory will be found. In many towns Amsterdam time is in use, and it is about twenty minutes faster than reliable clocks in many other towns that use Greenwich time; still, other towns use their own local time, so the Netherlands do not lack for time in time standards.

Every place in Newfoundland uses St. John's time for all purposes, excepting local time, which has special privileges as a cable station. For local purposes this little town employs local time. Every day it receives a signal from London giving the Greenwich time, and as the difference in time between the two points is three hours, thirty-three minutes and thirty-three seconds, it is only necessary to keep the local clocks that much slow on Greenwich time to have the exact local time. But in the cable office all foreign business is transmitted with Greenwich time. In Great Britain Greenwich mean time is the standard, and is used for all purposes nearly everywhere. Among the few exceptions is the city of Canterbury, which uses a time about four minutes fast on Greenwich, and clocks at a few railroad stations are kept one or two minutes fast. Ireland uses the time of Dublin, and so all the clocks in the island are twenty-five minutes, twenty-two seconds slow on Greenwich time. The official time throughout Argentina is that of the city of Cordova, which is telegraphed every day to control the time pieces in the various cities. It is used everywhere in the railroad and telegraph offices, but many citizens in the provinces prefer to use local time of doubtful accuracy. The people of the Hawaiian Islands try to keep their timepieces ten hours thirty minutes slower than those of Greenwich, and call this standard time. At Belize, British Honduras, the clock over the court house, which furnishes the time for the town of Nukualofa, which furnishes the time for the entire Tonga group, is in worst longitude, but because of business relations except with Samoa are with places east longitude, the east longitude time for the day of the week and month is kept.

In America any town that happens to be on the dividing line between two of the hour-time zones will have its own time, and, in addition, at the railroad station there will be two times different by an hour, one for the west and the other for the east-bound trains. The city of El Paso labors under the embarrassment of four kinds of railroad time, has central time for the Atlantic section of the Southern Pacific, Pacific time for the Pacific section of the same road, mountain time for the Mexican Central, all the railroads of Mexico being run on the time of the capital—New York Sun.

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Christmas 1899



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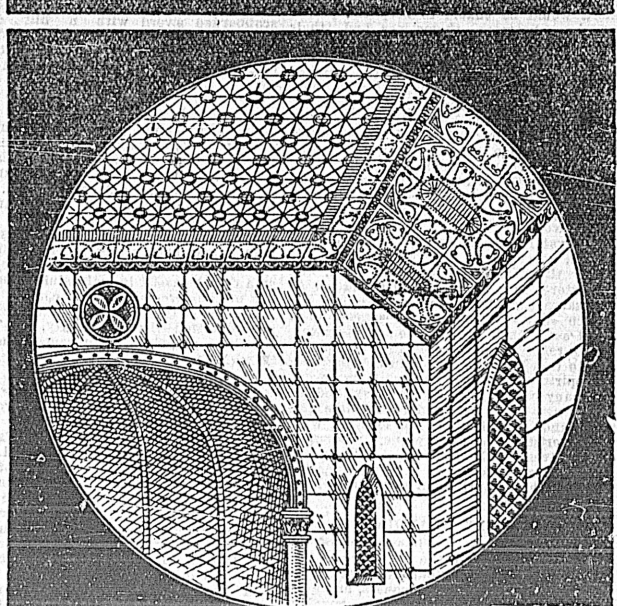
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